

MARVEL

#23

SOULE • MORGAN • MILLA

# DAREDEVIL



David Lopez



WHEN MATT MURDOCK WAS A KID, HE LOST HIS SIGHT IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING A TRUCK CARRYING RADIOACTIVE CHEMICALS. THOUGH HE COULD NO LONGER SEE, THE CHEMICALS HEIGHTENED MURDOCK'S OTHER SENSES AND IMBUED HIM WITH AN AMAZING 360-RADAR SENSE. NOW MATT USES HIS ABILITIES TO FIGHT FOR HIS CITY. HE IS THE *MAN WITHOUT FEAR*. HE IS...

# DAREDEVIL

MATT MURDOCK HAS JUST WON HIS FIRST VICTORY IN THE NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT. HAVING CONVINCED THE COURT TO ALLOW DAREDEVIL TO TESTIFY AS A WITNESS WITHOUT REVEALING HIS TRUE IDENTITY (WHICH, UNBEKNOWNST TO THE WORLD AT LARGE, IS MATT MURDOCK), A PRECEDENT WAS SET THAT COULD LEGITIMIZE SUPER HEROES' INVOLVEMENT IN THE LEGAL PROCESS. BUT THERE ARE THOSE THAT AREN'T HAPPY WITH MATT'S AGENDA, AND WILL NOT STAND FOR AN INTERRUPTION IN THE STATUS QUO...

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# SUPREME

## PART 3



WHY DO I NEED YOU?





I AM  
LEGAL, MR. FISK.  
I DO NOT NEED TO  
JUSTIFY MY REPUTATION.  
NEITHER DO  
YOU.

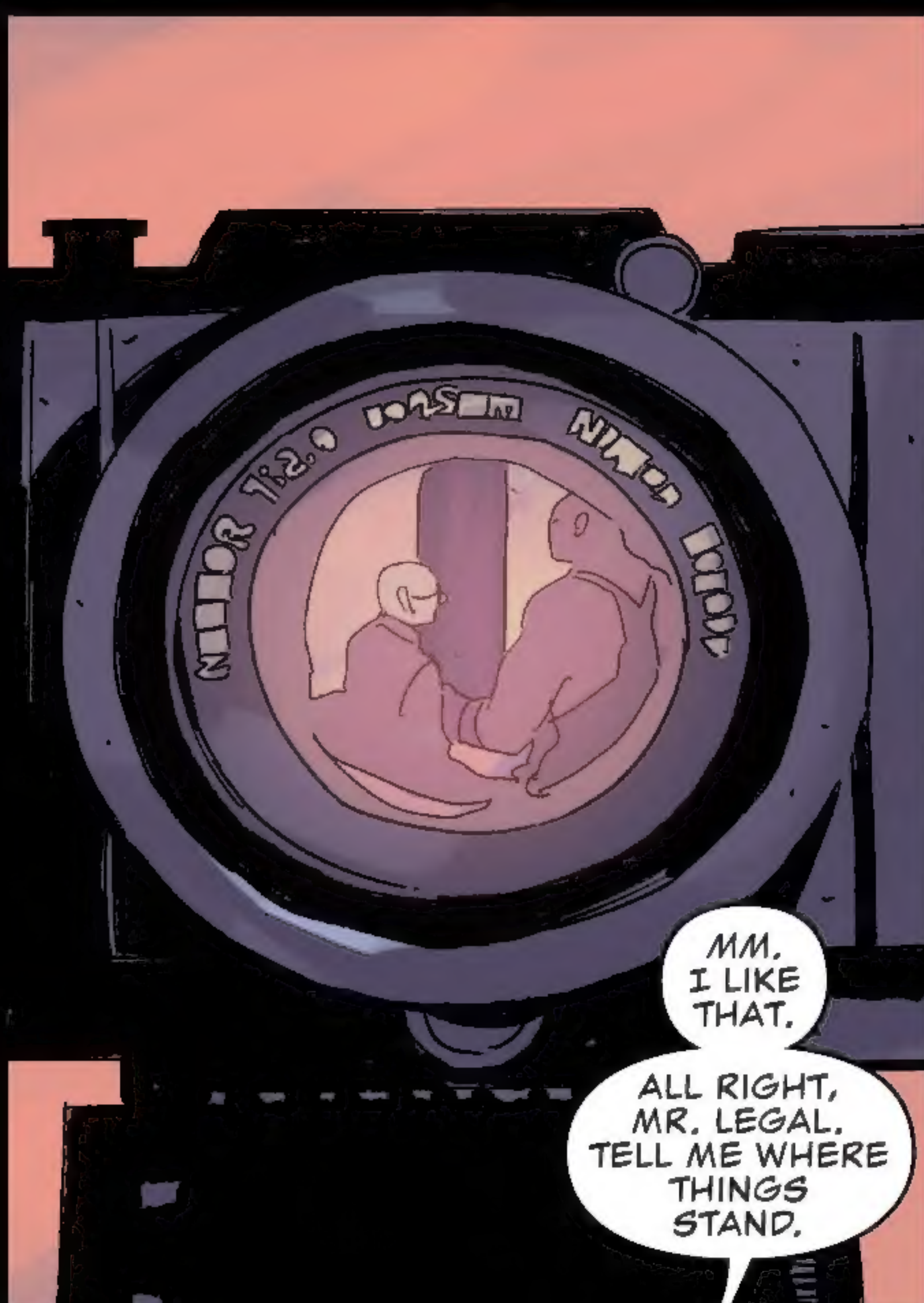


WE'LL  
SEE. YOU WERE  
TONY STARK'S LEAD  
ATTORNEY,  
RIGHT?

YES. I RAN  
MR. STARK'S IN-HOUSE  
LEGAL DEPARTMENT FOR  
YEARS, UNTIL THE RECENT  
DISSOLUTION OF MOST  
OF HIS BUSINESS  
ENTITIES.

YES. THAT  
WAS GOOD FOR  
ME, BIG PLAYER  
LIKE THAT GOING  
DOWN.

PERHAPS.  
BUT LET US SPEAK  
OF OTHER THINGS. I  
DO NOT DISCUSS MY  
CLIENTS, FORMER OR  
CURRENT. IN THIS,  
AS IN ALL THINGS,  
I AM LEGAL.



MM.  
I LIKE  
THAT.

ALL RIGHT,  
MR. LEGAL.  
TELL ME WHERE  
THINGS  
STAND.



WHY  
THE HELL AM  
I WATCHIN'  
THIS?









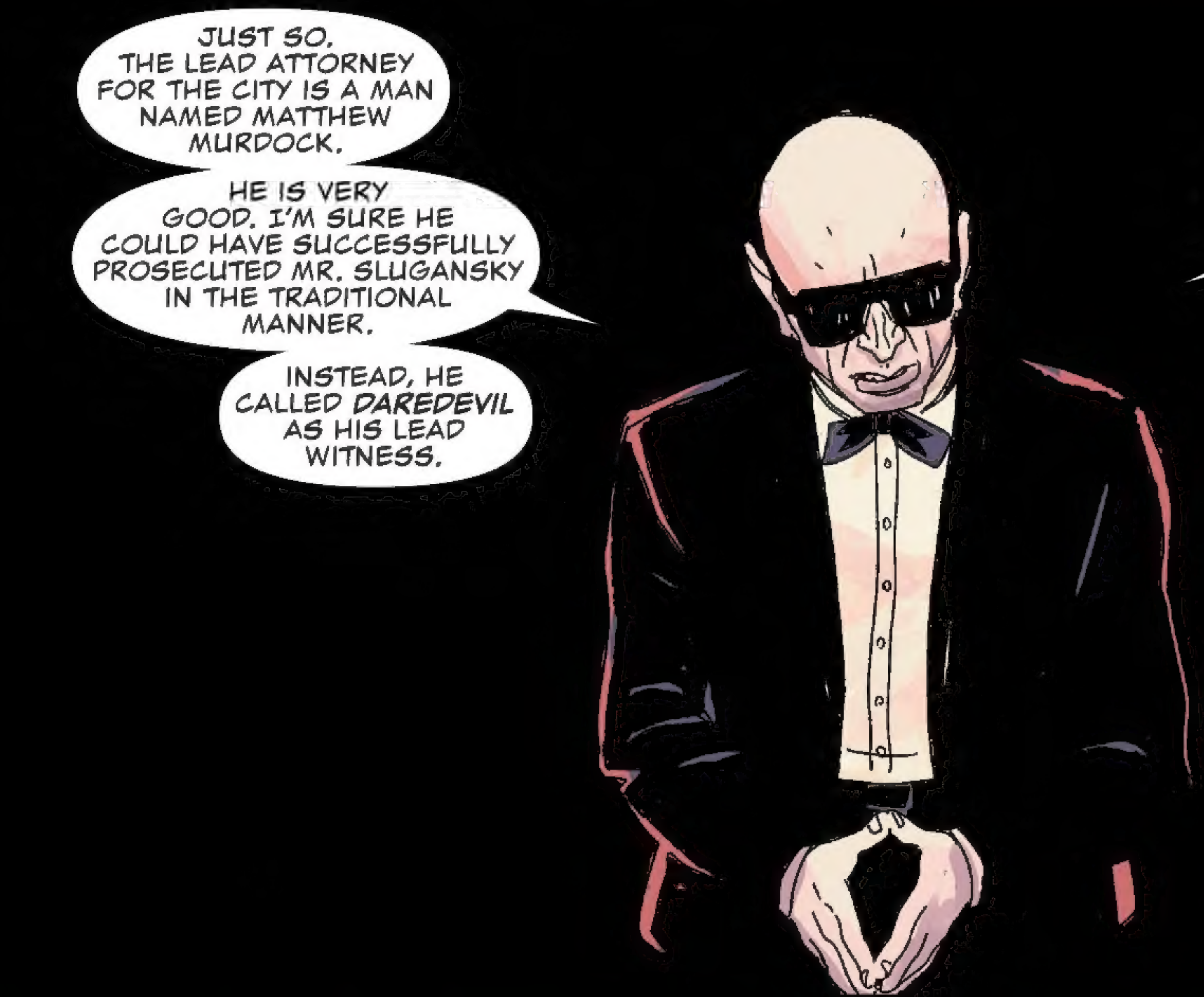
THE MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IS PURSUING A CRIMINAL CASE AGAINST A MAN NAMED SIMON SLUGANSKY.

THE CHARGES VARY--THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BEING CERTAIN ALLEGED TERRORIST ACTIONS.

THIS, IN ITSELF, IS NOT UNUSUAL. IT IS THE D.A.'S JOB. WHAT IS A BIT MORE UNORTHODOX HERE, HOWEVER, IS--



DAREDEVIL.



JUST SO. THE LEAD ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY IS A MAN NAMED MATTHEW MURDOCK.

HE IS VERY GOOD. I'M SURE HE COULD HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED MR. SLUGANSKY IN THE TRADITIONAL MANNER.

INSTEAD, HE CALLED DAREDEVIL AS HIS LEAD WITNESS.

THIS CREATED A HOST OF COMPLICATIONS, BECAUSE THE PROSECUTION INSISTED THAT DAREDEVIL DID NOT HAVE TO REVEAL HIS ACTUAL IDENTITY IN ORDER TO TESTIFY.

THEY TREATED HIM AS A CONFIDENTIAL WITNESS, AND WHEN THE DEFENSE MOVED TO COMPEL THE RELEASE OF HIS TRUE NAME, THE TRIAL COURT JUDGE RULED AGAINST THEM.

THE DEFENSE APPEALED, BUT THAT RULING WAS UPHELD AT THE APPELLATE LEVEL. THEY APPEALED AGAIN, WHICH BRINGS US TO NOW.



THIS ISN'T ABOUT SLUG. MURDOCK'S TRYING TO SET IT UP SO THAT DAREDEVIL CAN USE HIS POWERS TO SPY ON PEOPLE. LEGALLY.

MY ASSESSMENT AS WELL. NOT JUST DAREDEVIL, EITHER.

IF THIS CASE IS UPHELD, ANY WELL-KNOWN SUPER-POWERED VIGILANTE COULD DO THE SAME THING WHILE REMAINING ANONYMOUS.

YES. BAD FOR BUSINESS. BAD FOR EVERYONE. I WANT THIS THING KILLED.



ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.





YOU UNDERSTAND THE JOB?

YEAH, NOTHIN' COMPLICATED ABOUT A DEAD LAWYER. YOU UNDERSTAND MY FEE?

YOUR FEE WON'T BE A PROBLEM. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WORKING FOR THE KINGPIN.

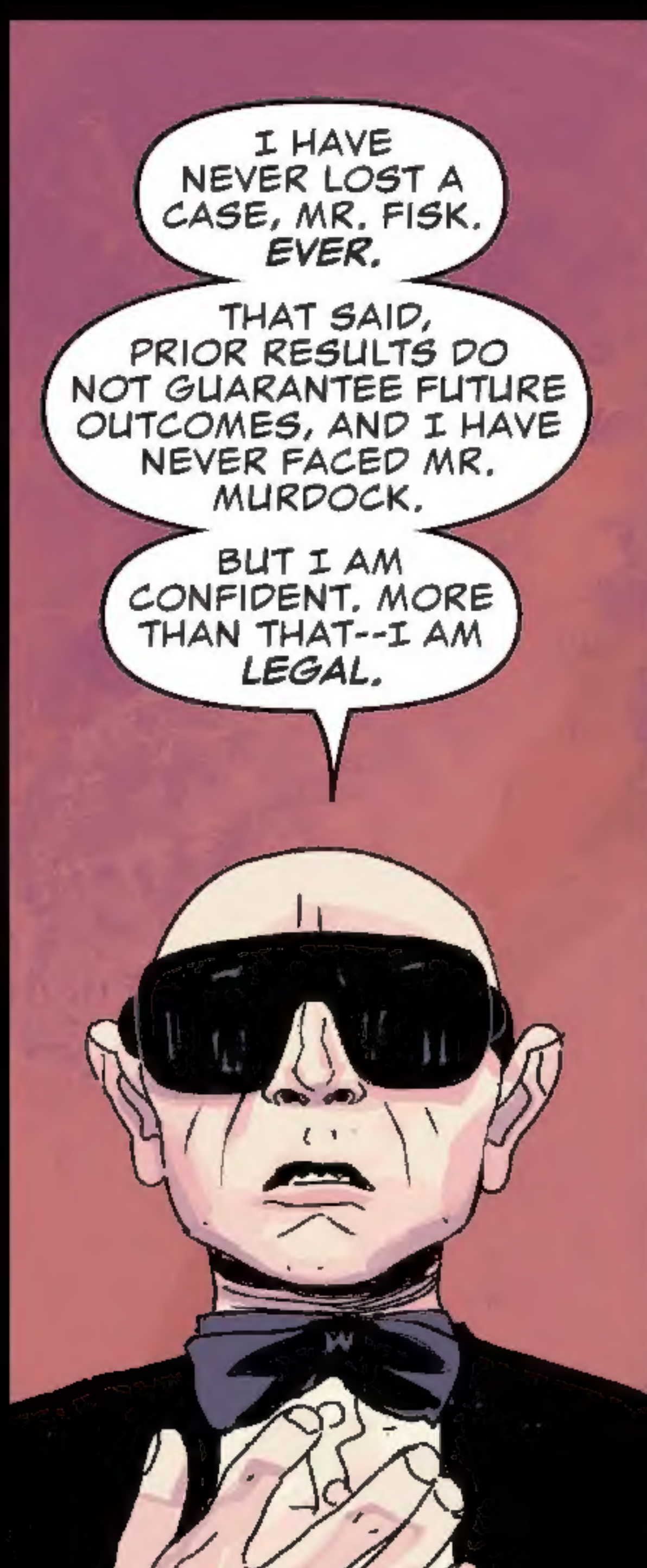


IT'S ALL ABOUT STAYING OUT OF THE BAG.



MURDOCK HAS ANOTHER CASE COMING UP ON THIS. COURT OF APPEALS. HIGHEST COURT IN THE STATE.

I WANT HIM TO LOSE. CAN YOU DELIVER THAT TO ME?



I HAVE NEVER LOST A CASE, MR. FISK. EVER.

THAT SAID, PRIOR RESULTS DO NOT GUARANTEE FUTURE OUTCOMES, AND I HAVE NEVER FACED MR. MURDOCK.

BUT I AM CONFIDENT. MORE THAN THAT--I AM LEGAL.



AH...YOUR BAG SEEMS TO HAVE SPRUNG A LEAK.

SO IT HAS. BUT YOU DON'T DISCUSS YOUR CLIENTS, FORMER OR CURRENT. ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU SAID?

IT IS.

THEN YOU'RE HIRED. AND AS FAR AS THE BAG GOES...



...I CAN ALWAYS GET ANOTHER ONE.



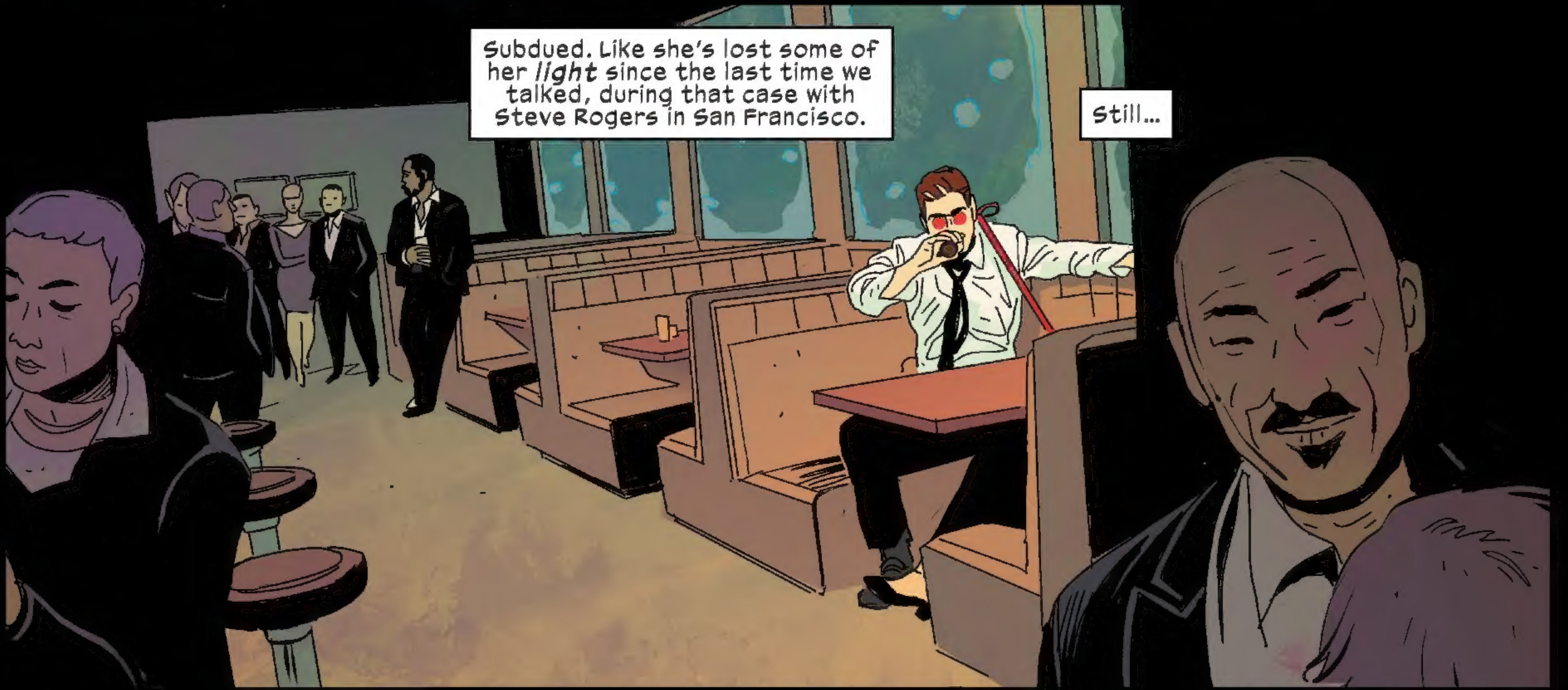
MANHATTAN.  
THE LAWYER BAR.

She seems  
different  
somehow.



Subdued. Like she's lost some of  
her *light* since the last time we  
talked, during that case with  
Steve Rogers in San Francisco.

Still...



...she's  
Jennifer  
Walters.

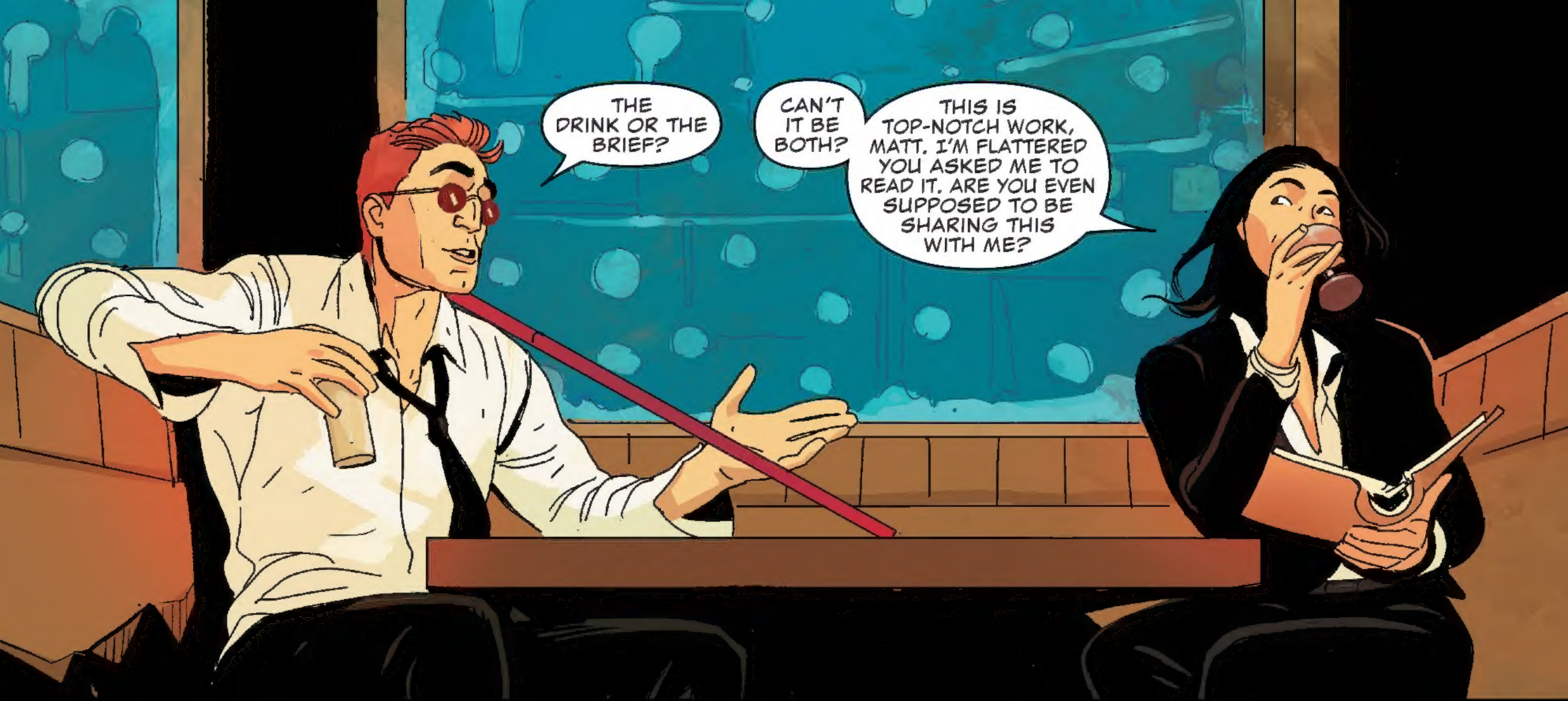


Her light will  
never go out.



WELL, THIS IS  
EXCELLENT.





THE  
DRINK OR THE  
BRIEF?

CAN'T  
IT BE  
BOTH?

THIS IS  
TOP-NOTCH WORK,  
MATT. I'M FLATTERED  
YOU ASKED ME TO  
READ IT. ARE YOU EVEN  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
SHARING THIS  
WITH ME?



ABSOLUTELY  
NOT--BUT THE  
STAKES ARE HIGH  
HERE, AND YOU'RE  
PROBABLY THE FOREMOST  
EXPERT IN SUPER HERO-  
RELATED LAW IN  
THE CITY.

ON THE  
PLANET.

SURE.

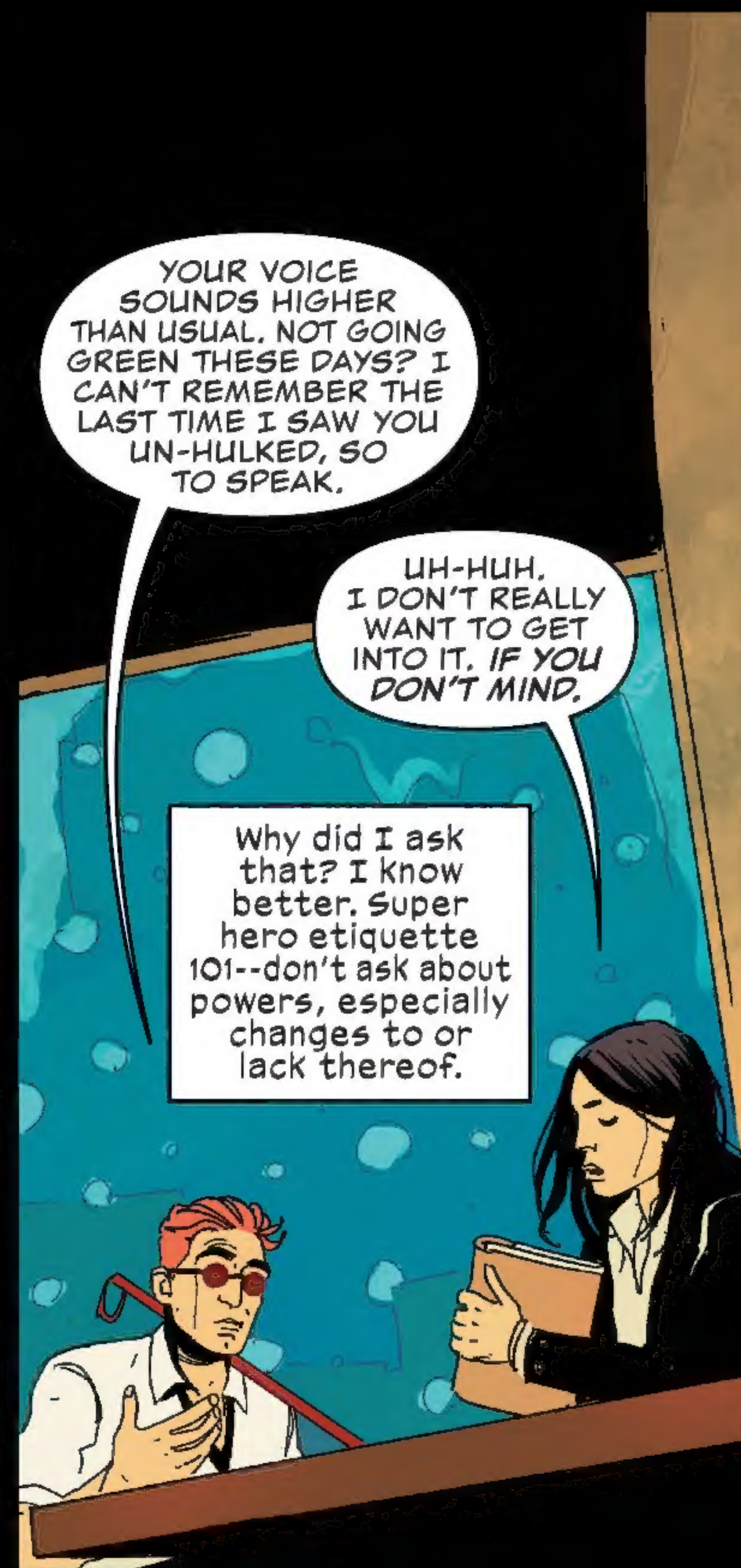


YOU KNOW,  
FOGGY NELSON'S  
WORKED WITH DAREDEVIL  
MUCH MORE THAN I  
HAVE. HAS HE  
SEEN THIS?

FOGGY...  
ISN'T REALLY  
INVOLVED. HE  
AND DAREDEVIL  
ARE...ON A  
BREAK.

SO?  
ISN'T HE  
YOUR BEST  
FRIEND?

WE'RE ON  
A BREAK, TOO.  
IT'S COMPLICATED.  
I DON'T REALLY  
WANT TO GET INTO  
IT, IF YOU DON'T  
MIND.



YOUR VOICE  
SOUNDS HIGHER  
THAN USUAL. NOT GOING  
GREEN THESE DAYS? I  
CAN'T REMEMBER THE  
LAST TIME I SAW YOU  
UN-HULKED, SO  
TO SPEAK.

UH-HUH.  
I DON'T REALLY  
WANT TO GET  
INTO IT, IF YOU  
DON'T MIND.

Why did I ask  
that? I know  
better. Super  
hero etiquette  
101--don't ask about  
powers, especially  
changes to or  
lack thereof.



Guess her bringing up  
Foggy has me flustered.

Because she's right.  
He should be reading this.  
Oh...oh, well. Not an option.

UH...MAYBE  
WE SHOULD JUST  
GET BACK TO THE BRIEF?  
I'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR  
THOUGHTS ON THE  
SIXTH AMENDMENT  
ANGLE.

SURE. BUT  
WE SHOULD TALK  
ABOUT THE ATTORNEY  
ON THE OTHER SIDE--THE  
GUY SLUGANSKY SUBBED  
IN FOR HIS PRIOR  
COUNSEL.

I KNOW  
HIM. LEGAL.  
HONESTLY, FRIEND,  
YOU MIGHT BE IN  
TROUBLE  
HERE.





HE USED TO BE STARK'S LAWYER. NOT ONE OF HIS LAWYERS, LIKE HIS ALL-THE-WAY-AT-THE-TOP LAWYER.

I HAD A LITTLE I.P. CASE AGAINST HIM ONCE, AND THE GUY CAME AT ME LIKE A NUCLEAR BOMB. ALMOST DROWNED ME IN PAPER. LITERALLY.



WELL, NO, NOT LITERALLY. I HATE WHEN PEOPLE MISUSE THAT WORD. BUT IT WAS A LOT OF PAPER. MOTION AFTER MOTION AFTER MOTION.

I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT THAT. I'VE GOT THE ENTIRE MANHATTAN D.A.'S OFFICE BEHIND THIS CASE. NO ONE'S GOING TO OUT-FILE THE CITY OF NEW YORK.



IT'S NOT JUST THE WORKLOAD. THIS GUY IS GOOD. ONE OF THE BEST I'VE EVER SEEN. LIKE...AS GOOD AS WE ARE.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU LOSE?



YOU'RE ARGUING DAREDEVIL'S TESTIMONY SHOULD BE ADMITTED EVEN THOUGH NO ONE KNOWS HIS REAL NAME.

IF YOU LOSE, THEN EITHER YOU THROW OUT THAT TESTIMONY--WHICH MEANS SLUGANSKY MAYBE GOES FREE--OR DAREDEVIL HAS TO TAKE HIS MASK OFF.

AS A LAWYER, ETHICALLY...WHAT KIND OF CHOICE IS THAT? DOES DAREDEVIL UNDERSTAND THE STAKES?



HE KNOWS, AND HE THINKS IT'S WORTH IT.

IF I WIN, JEN...IT SETS THE PRECEDENT. ANY SECRET I.D. HERO COULD GET UP ON THE STAND WITHOUT UNMASKING.

THEY WON'T HAVE TO JUST DROP OFF CRIMINALS AT THE PRECINCT HOUSE AND HOPE IT ALL WORKS OUT IN COURT.





LOOK, DAREDEVIL HAS **SUPER-HEARING**.

HE'S A ONE-MAN WIRETAP, AND SINCE HE'S A PRIVATE CITIZEN, NO WARRANT REQUIRED. IT'D BE A GOLDMINE.

SURE, DAREDEVIL...BUT WHO ELSE? DO THAT MANY HEROES EVEN KEEP THEIR IDENTITIES SECRET THESE DAYS?

PLENTY. SPIDER-MAN, MS. MARVEL, WHITE TIGER, IRON FIST...



AND YOU THINK THEY'LL WANT TO GO TO COURT? THEY'RE VIGILANTES, MATT.

NOT TOO BIG ON PROCEDURE.



MAYBE, BUT EVERY CASE IS PARTLY ABOUT EVERY **SUBSEQUENT CASE**. THINK OF WHOM THIS RULING MIGHT INSPIRE DOWN THE LINE.

FUTURE HEROES WHO MIGHT NOT WANT TO OPERATE OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM--NOW THEY'D HAVE A PATH, TOO.



IF YOU WIN.

WHEN I WIN. AND EVEN IF I LOSE, THE COURT OF APPEALS ISN'T THE END OF THE LINE.

YOU THINK YOU'D GET A CERT? LONG SHOT, MAN... I DUNNO.



WHY ARE YOU EVEN DOING THIS? IT'S NUTS. WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PROVE, MATT?

SHOULDN'T YOU BE FOCUSED ON THE **CONVICTION**? YOU SEEM TO CARE MORE ABOUT DAREDEVIL THAN YOU DO ABOUT PUTTING A TERRORIST IN JAIL!



HEY, YOU MATT MURDOCK?

YES, BUT I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF--



This...  
does not  
seem good.

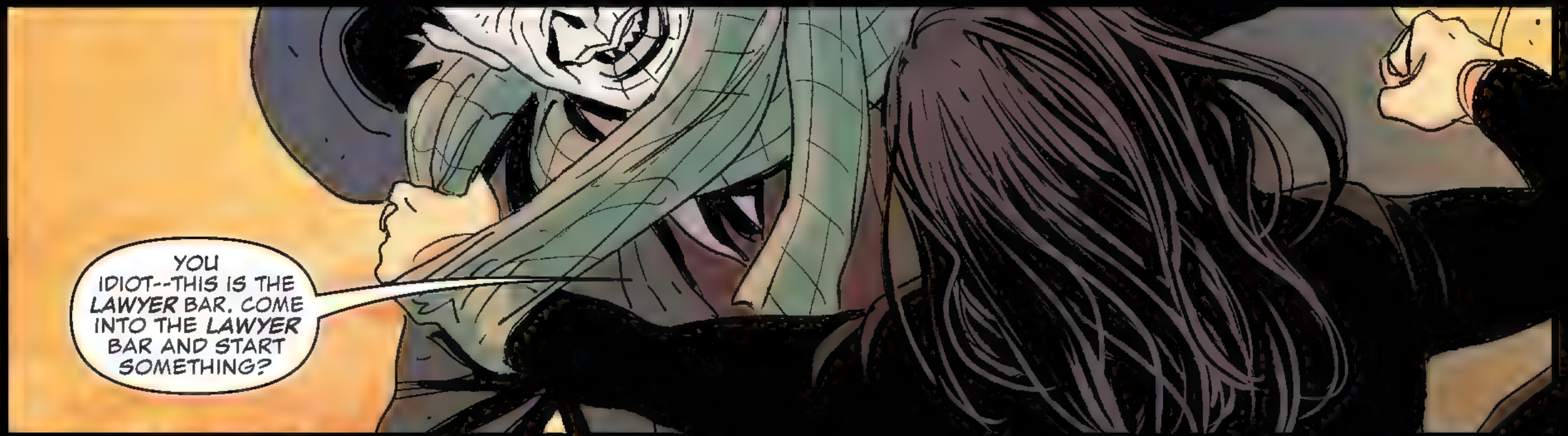
Be careful, Matt.  
You're *blind*, remember?  
Don't react. Figure out  
the best way to--

OKAY,  
THEN.

KKT!

MATT!














Was that  
*Tombstone*?  
What the hell  
is going on?

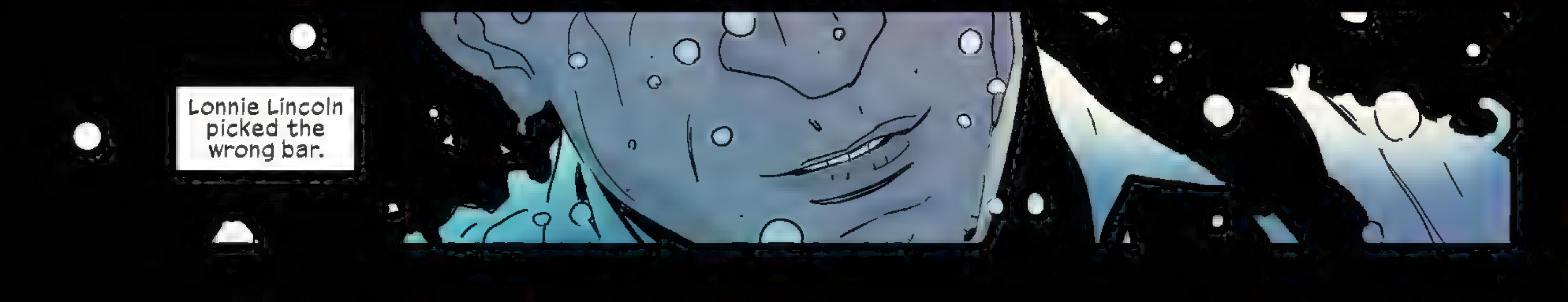


KRRRMSH



KRRCK

Well, whatever  
it is, I know  
one thing.



Lonnie Lincoln  
picked the  
wrong bar.





Have to do this fast, before Jen sees me.



These are not the actions of a terrified blind attorney.

WHAT IS THIS, TOMBSTONE? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

NNNGH... HE DIDN'T TELL ME *SHE'D* BE HERE...



WHO'S "HE"? WHY DID YOU COME AFTER ME?

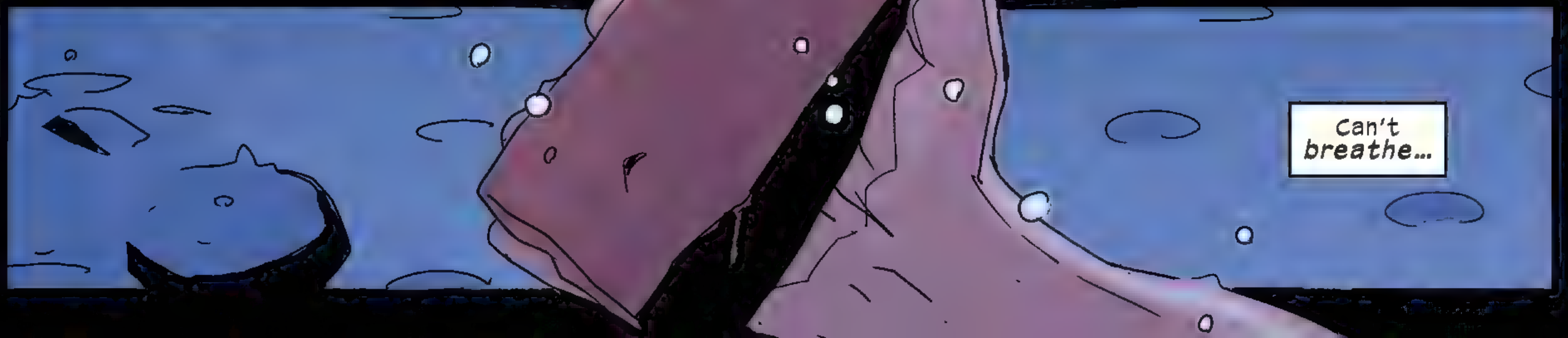
TOOK THE MONEY... DIDN'T... DIDN'T...



DIDN'T WANT TO END UP IN THE BAG.

HRRK!

Can't... can't...



Can't breathe...







I  
CRACKED YER JAW.  
CRACKED YER  
JAW!

Jen...thank  
God. But...

She's...there's  
something  
different.

What kind of  
Hulk *is* she?

YOU'RE  
A ROCK.

KNOW  
WHAT I  
AM?

K  
R  
N  
C  
H

LAWYER.

SNP











## TWO WEEKS LATER.

ALBANY, NEW YORK STATE  
COURT OF APPEALS.  
PEOPLE V. SIMON SLUGANSKY.  
ORAL ARGUMENTS.

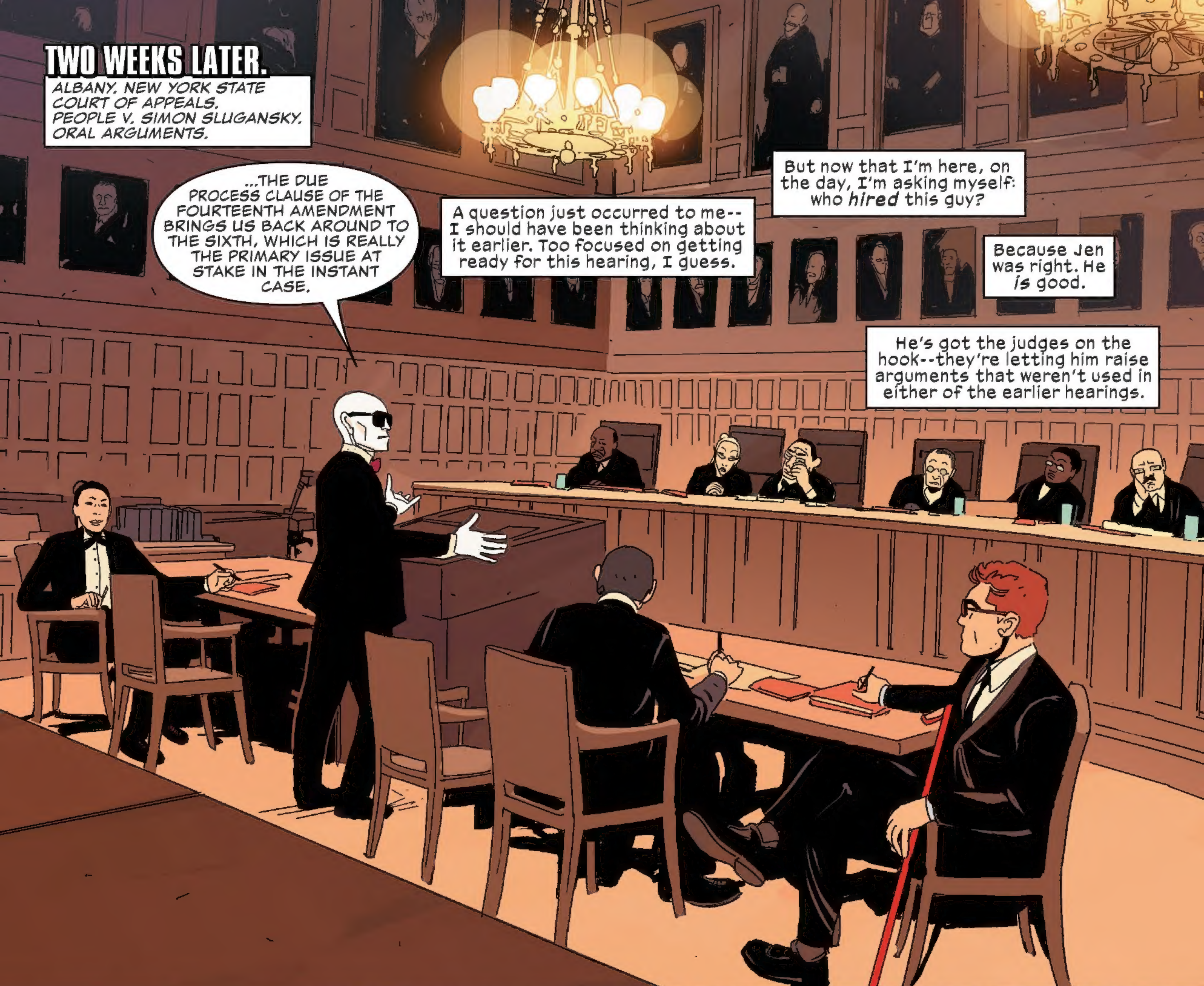
...THE DUE  
PROCESS CLAUSE OF THE  
FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT  
BRINGS US BACK AROUND TO  
THE SIXTH, WHICH IS REALLY  
THE PRIMARY ISSUE AT  
STAKE IN THE INSTANT  
CASE.

A question just occurred to me--  
I should have been thinking about  
it earlier. Too focused on getting  
ready for this hearing, I guess.

But now that I'm here, on  
the day, I'm asking myself:  
who *hired* this guy?

Because Jen  
was right. He  
*is* good.

He's got the judges on the  
hook--they're letting him raise  
arguments that weren't used in  
either of the earlier hearings.



This courtroom is  
their kingdom--they  
can do whatever the  
hell they want.

*Stare decisis* right out the  
window, if they feel like it.  
And today...they feel like it.

THE CONFRONTATION  
CLAUSE DOESN'T SEEM  
APPLICABLE HERE. THE  
WITNESS--DAREDEVIL--WAS  
PRESENT IN THE COURTROOM,  
AND WAS THOROUGHLY  
CROSS-EXAMINED.

Because Legal is good. Too good. Guys like this--you don't  
even get in the room with them unless you have serious access.

Slugansky couldn't hire this guy.  
No way. Someone else set it up.

And that's not even bringing in the  
Tombstone angle, if it's connected.

What is actually  
*happening* here?

OF COURSE,  
YOUR HONOR--BUT WHO  
WAS ACTUALLY THERE? THE  
DEFENSE DID NOT KNOW--NOT  
REALLY-- AND WAS THEREFORE  
UNABLE TO ADEQUATELY  
QUESTION DAREDEVIL.

MR.  
SLUGANSKY'S  
DUE PROCESS RIGHTS  
WERE VIOLATED--IT IS  
THAT SIMPLE.







Focus, Matt. There's only one thing happening--the biggest oral argument of your career.

LOOKS LIKE IT'S YOUR TURN, MR. MURDOCK. ARE YOU READY?

I AM, YOUR HONOR. THANK YOU.



THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME BEFORE THE HIGH COURT, ISN'T IT?

YES, MR. HOCHBERG.

DON'T LET IT RATTLE YOU. IT'S JUST A CONVERSATION. HELL, YOU'VE PROBABLY GOT IT BETTER THAN MOST--YOU CAN'T SEE THE JUDGES.



If only.



ALL RIGHT, YOUR HONORS.

Why am I doing this? What *am* I trying to prove?



Guess we're about to find out.

LET'S BEGIN.

TO BE  
CONTINUED...



# NEXT ISSUE:

## "SUPREME" PART 4

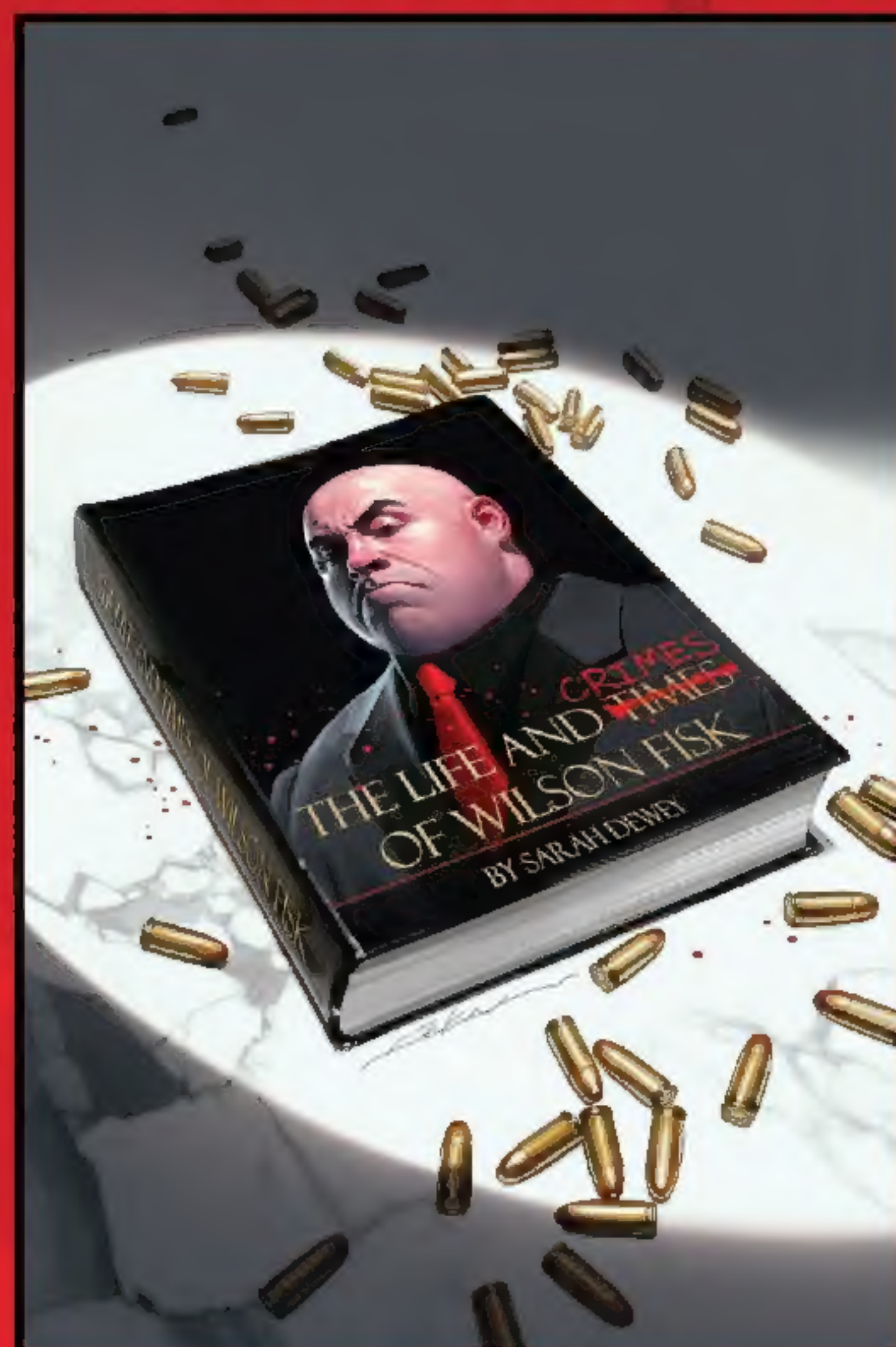


# DAREDEVIL #24

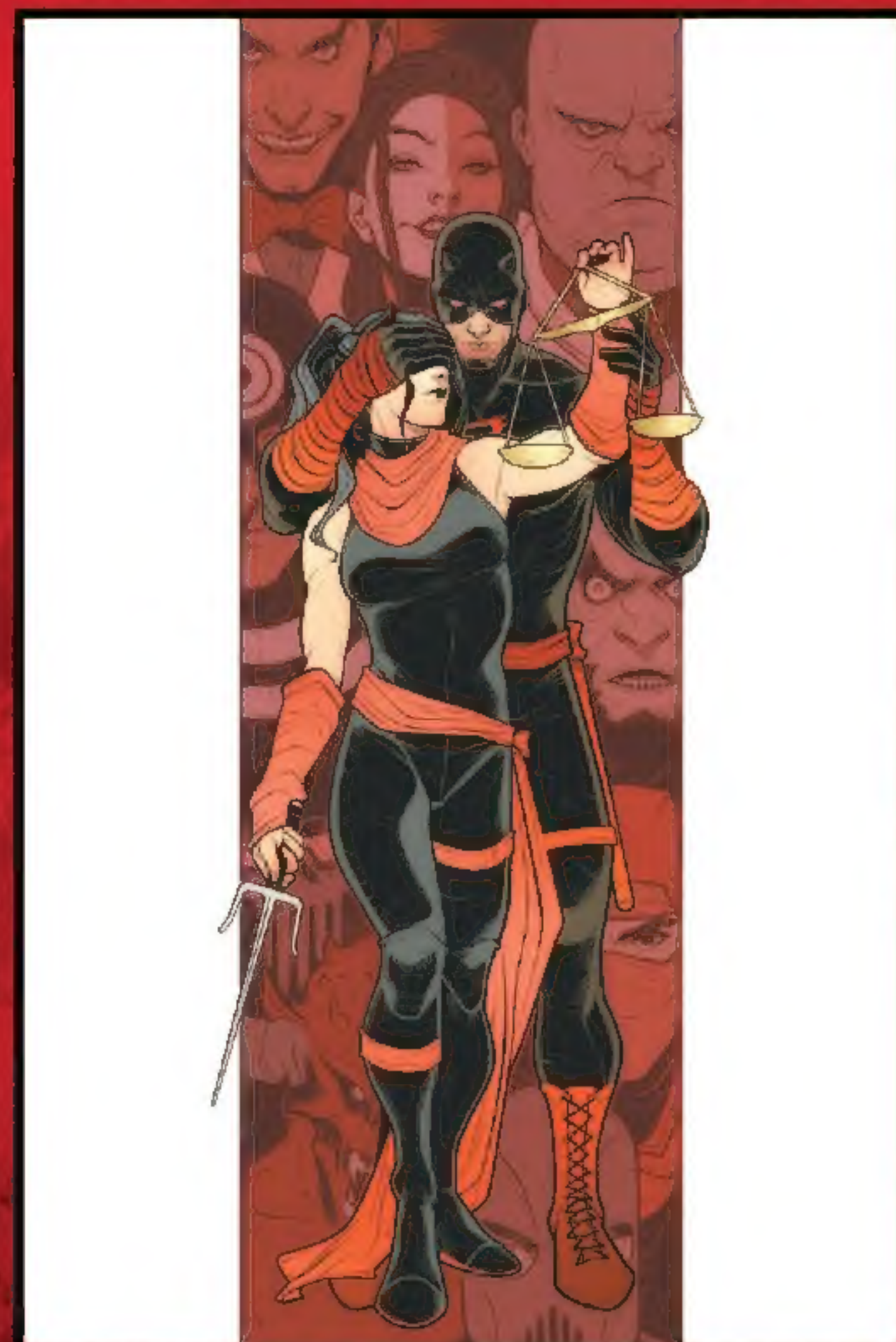
ALSO ON SALE



BULLSEYE #5 - ON SALE NOW



KINGPIN #5 - ON SALE NOW



ELEKTRA #5 - ON SALE NOW



